Translator/TLC Castellan / Katsu
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ブリア古書堂 の事
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漫画 十カノ キャラクター原案 越島はぐ
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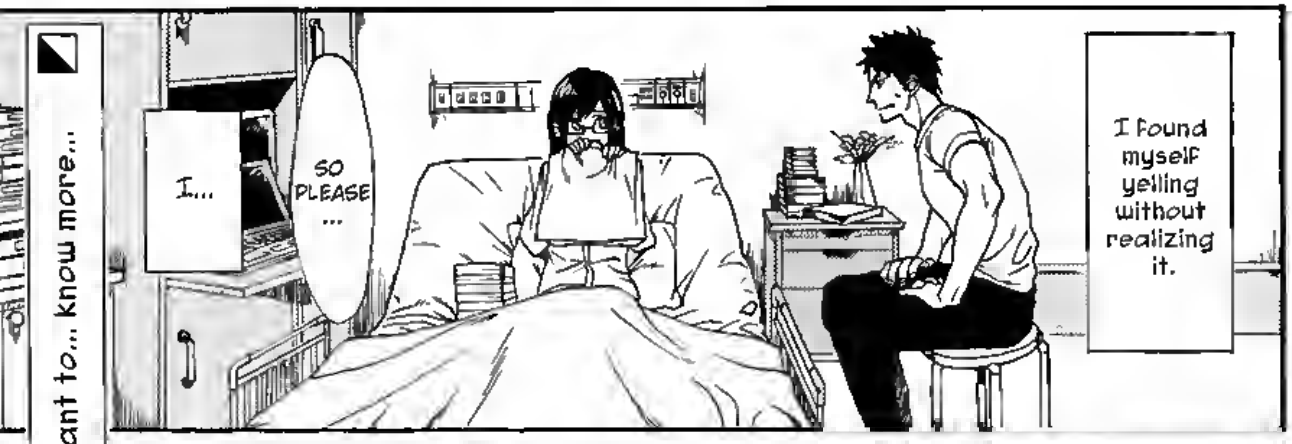
YOU AREN'T CAUSING ME ANY TROUBLE!
I'M...
I'M TAKING UP ALL OF YOUR TIME...
I'M REALLY ...
IN THE PAST, PEOPLE ALWAYS TOLD ME
THAT I NEVER SPOKE ABOUT ANY-THING BUT BOOKS ...


I want to... know more...
I...
SO PLEASE ...
I found myself yelling without realizing it.

I don't want
to stop talking to her.
PLEASE CONTINUE
WITH WHAT YOU WERE SAYING.

原作小説
累計200万部突破!!

# ビブリア古書堂の事件手帖

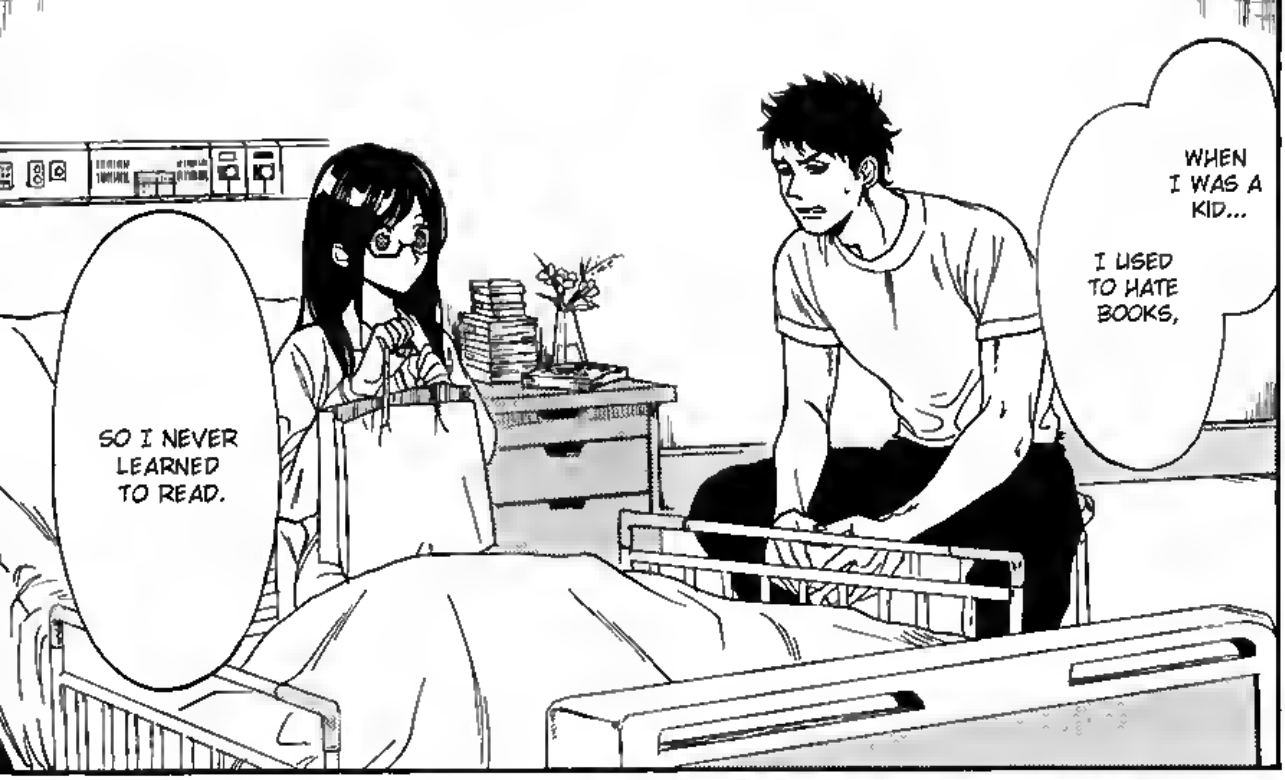
連載第2回!!

原作 三上延（メディアワークス文庫刊）
漫画 ナカノ
キャラクター原案 越島はぐ

To unravel the mystery surrounding the old book...

Biblia Koshodou Case Notebook

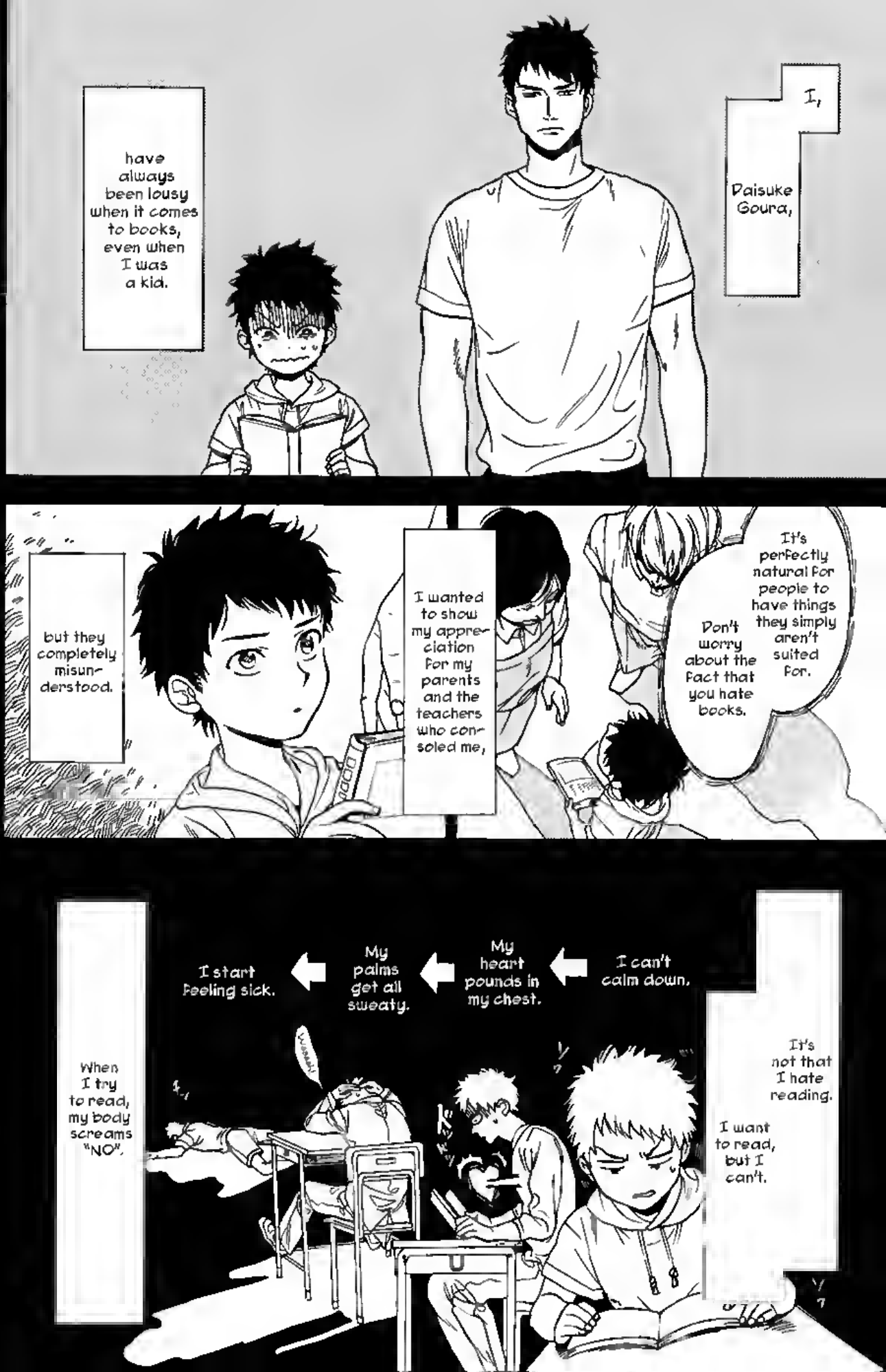
Chapter 2


WHEN I WAS A KID...
I USED TO HATE BOOKS,
SO I NEVER LEARNED TO READ.

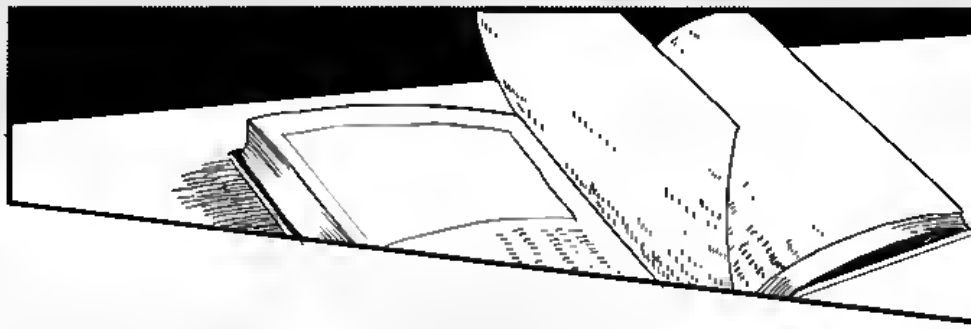
SO ...
I'M REALLY ENJOYING THIS CONVER-SATION.
Until now...

BUT I ALWAYS WANTED... TO LEARN HOW.
I said it without thinking.

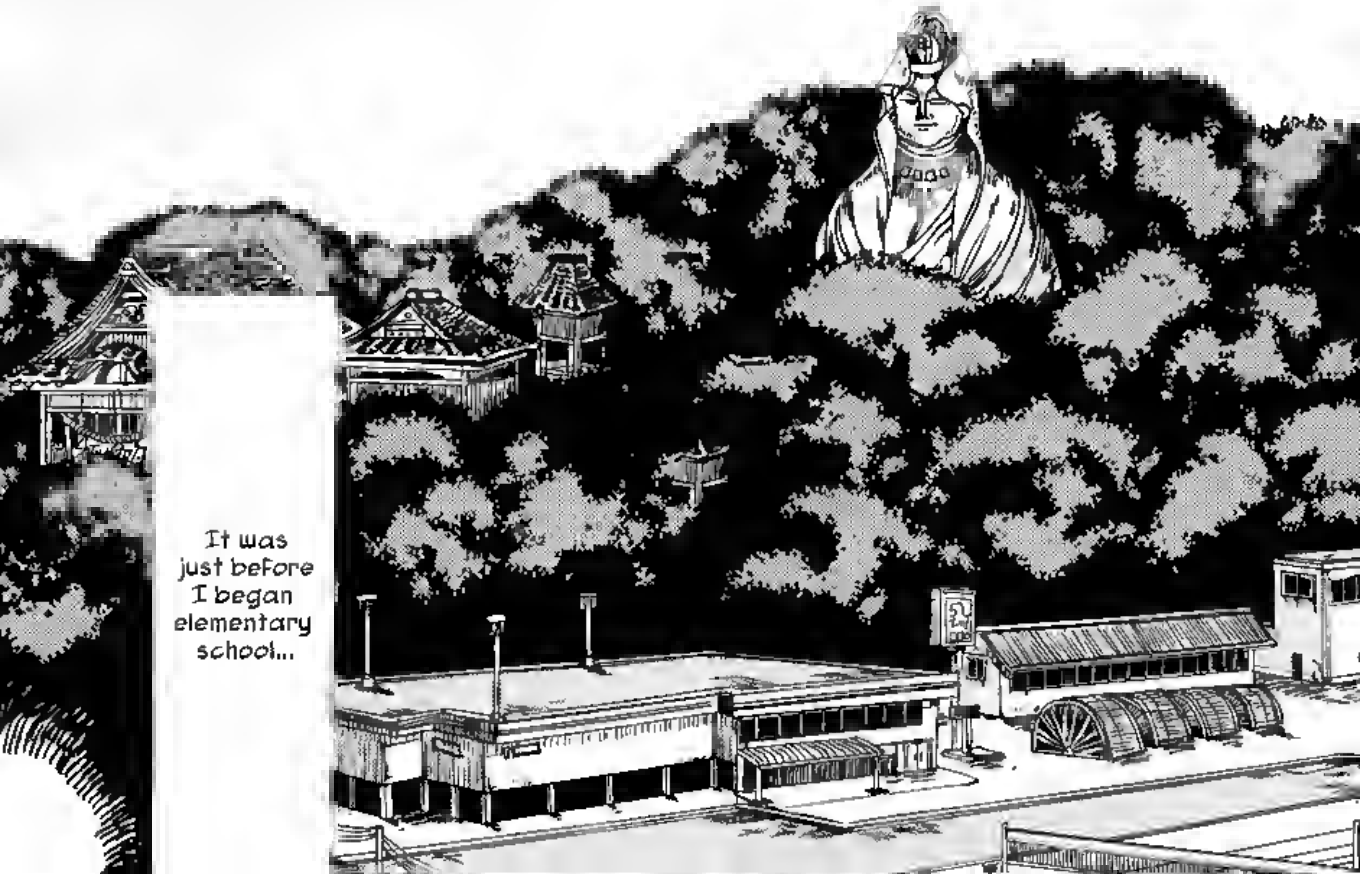
She doesn't get it either ....
Until now, nobody has under-stood that
it's a story about "where I come from".


I,
Daisuke Goura,
have always been lousy when it comes to books, even when I was a kid.
It's perfectly natural for people to have things they simply aren't suited for.
Don't worry about the fact that you hate books.
I wanted to show my appreciation for my parents and the teachers who consoled me,
but they completely misunderstood.
I can't calm down.
My heart pounds in my chest.
My palms get all sweaty.
I start feeling sick.
When I try to read, my body screams "NO".
It's not that I hate reading.
I want to read, but I can't.

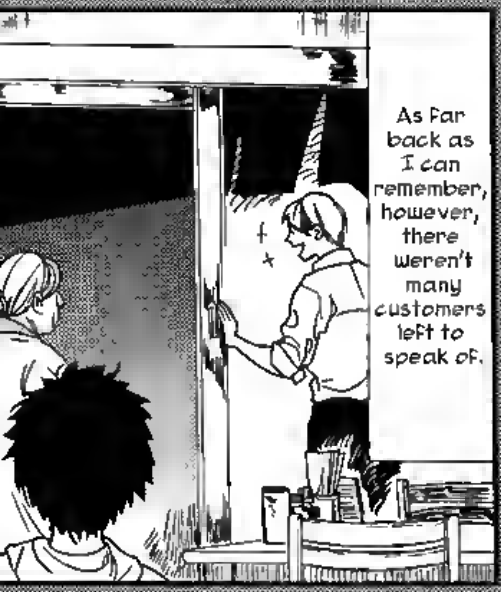
SPORTS FESTIVAL
Very tall and superhuman.
On that note,
my appearance only complemented the misunderstanding.
My physique was intimidating.
Won't you join the judo club?
Even so...
PHYSICAL ABILITY OVER MENTAL ABILITY!
I wanted to read books
I never really had any interest in sports



is what instigated my role in this tale of the "Collective Works of Souseki".



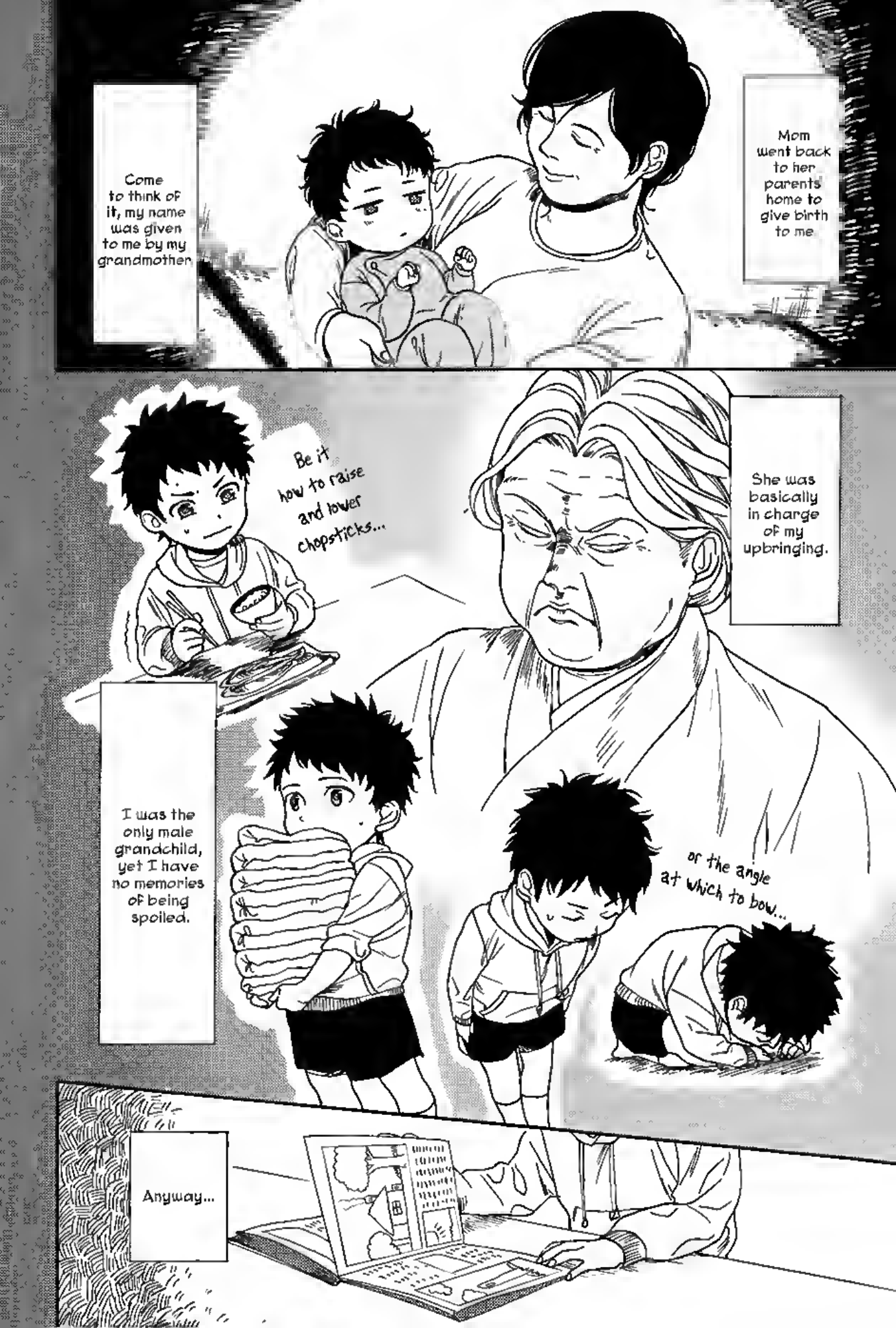
As unusual as it seems, this neighborhood was once one of the most popular filming locations in Japan.
Restaurant Goora Diner
Goo ra Di ner
My home was just a normal eatery.


As far back as I can remember, however, there weren't many customers left to speak of.

Apparently we thrived back then, thanks to all of the studio staff.

My father passed away before I was born.

I lived together with my mother and grandmother on the second floor of the diner.


Come to think of it, my name was given to me by my grandmother.
Mom went back to her parents' home to give birth to me.
She was basically in charge of my upbringing.
Be it how to raise and lower chopsticks...
or the angle at which to bow...
I was the only male grandchild, yet I have no memories of being spoiled.
Anyway...

The day it all started ...
I was reading a picture book alone in the second floor living room.
Until that moment, I was a child who quietly enjoyed books.
.....
FLIP...
Man, I'm tired of reading this book...
...Nothing to do.
Maybe I'll go out...
ZING!
oh
.....

Leaving the living room,
I went to grand-mother's room.
She had told me time and time again
not to enter her room...
すう...
But I was there with a purpose;

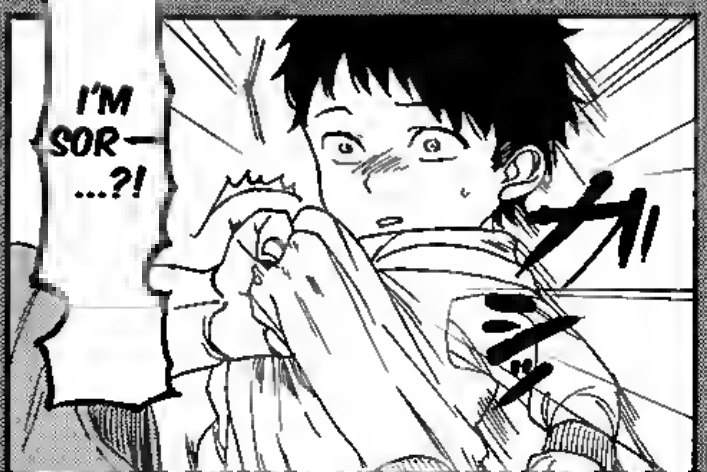
to find a book.
There has to be a children's book in here somewhere...
slide...
FLIP...
.....
I can't read it.
Oh—
There has to be a book here that I can read!
Like this book... and this one too!
Awip
Awip
Awip

"SO"...
Ah...
These are the only ones written in hiragana...

"SO"
"RE"
"KA"
"RA"
T/N: SOREKARA: "AND THEN..."
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
Grandma?!

I suddenly recalled...

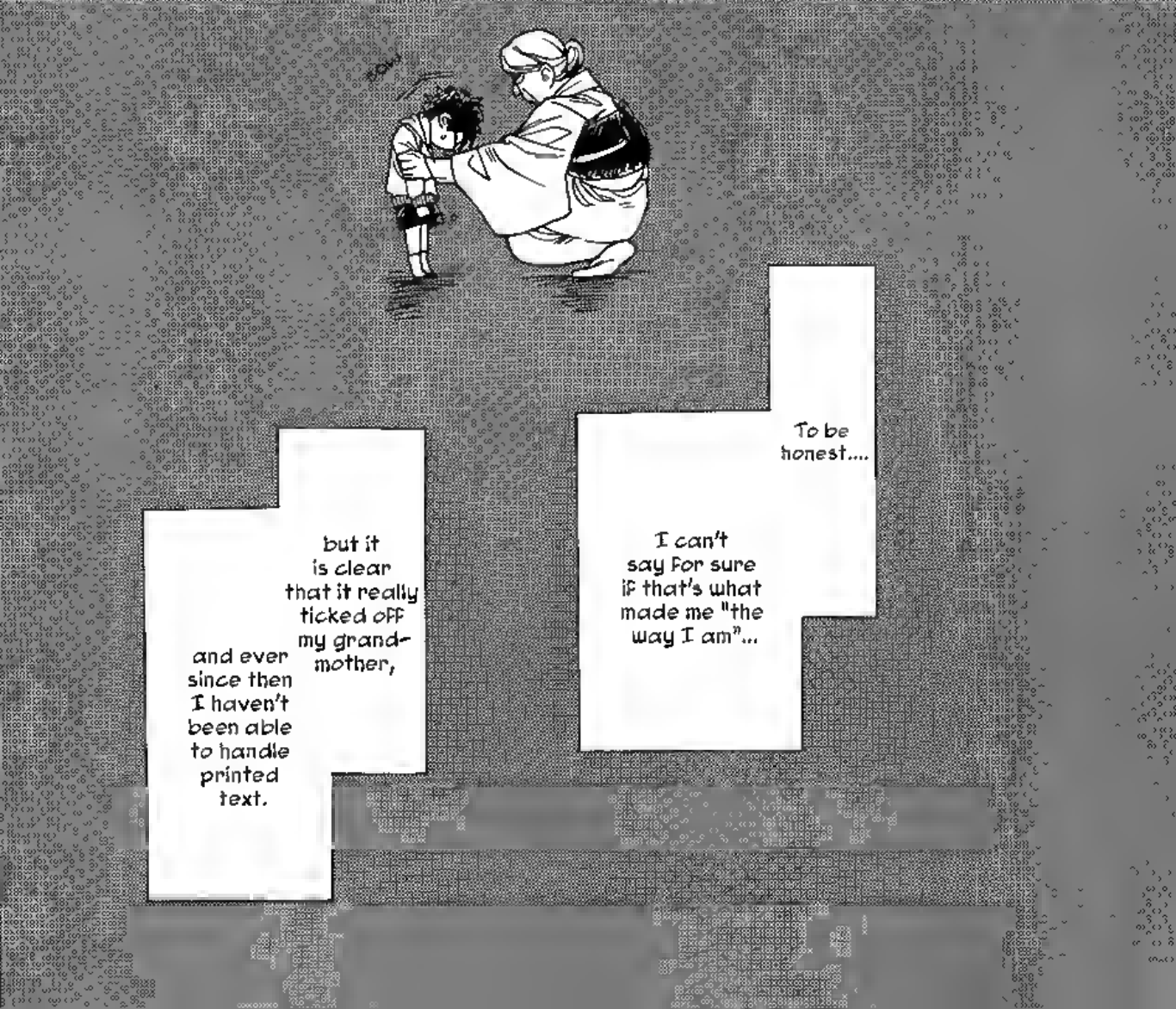
...that there was more to the warning.



Oof...
Geh...

Ugh...
HIIII
THESE ARE NOT...
TO BE READ.

IF YOU EVER DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT AGAIN,
YOU WILL NO LONGER BE MY GRANDSON.


To be honest....
I can't say for sure if that's what made me "the way I am"...
but it is clear that it really ticked off my grand-mother,
and ever since then I haven't been able to handle printed text.

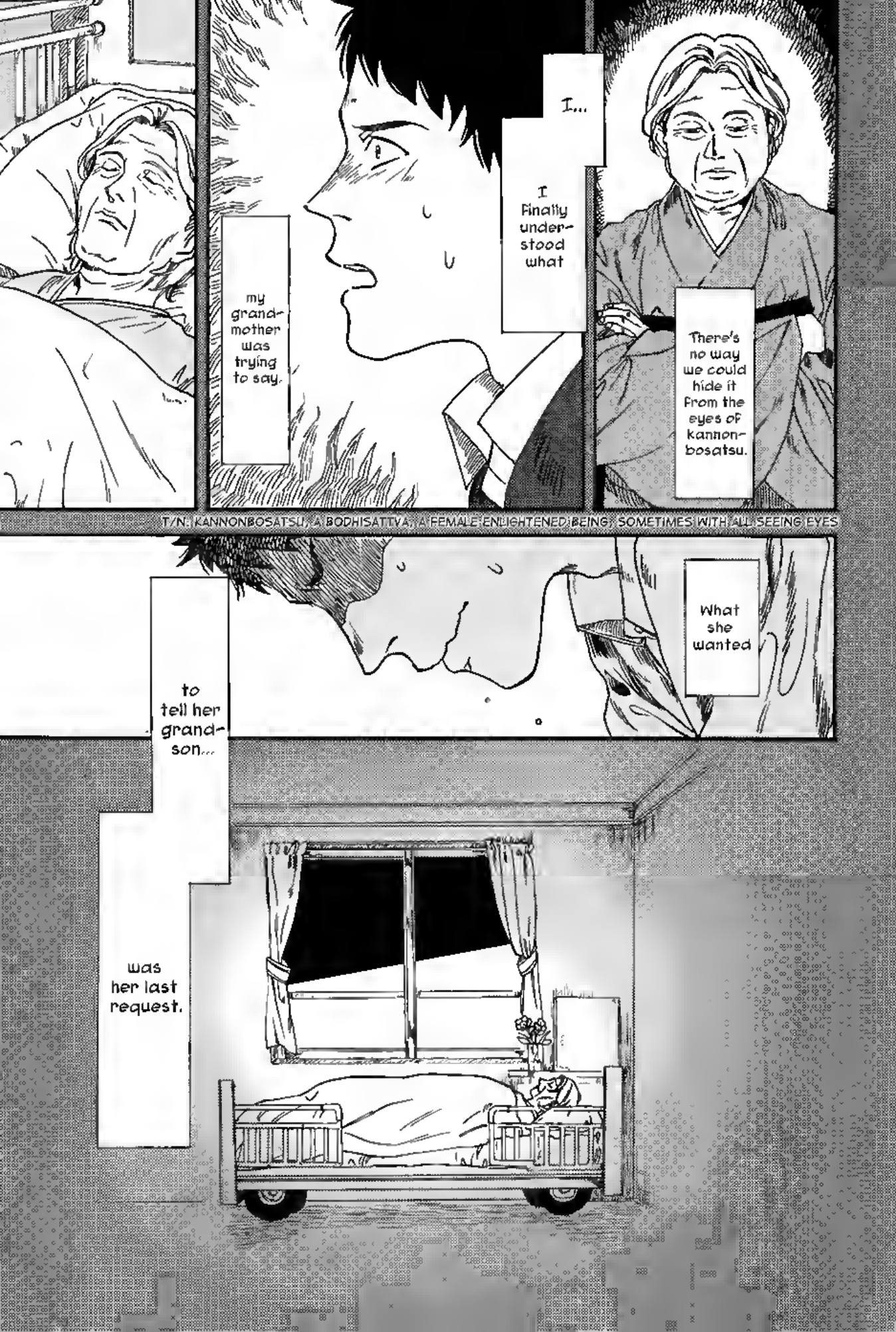
!?
YOU KNOW, THAT TIME WHEN I HIT YOU...
I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE YOU IN MY ROOM.
We hadn't spoken about that in more than 15 years.
YOU HADN'T DONE THAT BEFORE, HAD YOU?
It was when I was watching over Grandmother, who had been admitted to the hospital,
I DIDN'T MEAN TO STRIKE YOU.
IT WAS WRONG OF ME TO DO THAT.
We spent the time needed in order to come to a true understanding.
that we spoke about it as though it had happened just last week.

.....
I'M THE ONE WHO JUST WALTZED INTO YOUR ROOM, RIGHT...?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I BELIEVE THAT TO BE THE TRUTH.
IF YOU'D BEEN ABLE TO READ SINCE THEN,
YOUR LIFE WOULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
IS THAT SO...?
THE WAY THINGS ARE... IT DOESN'T MATTER
IF I READ OR NOT.
That may be the case, but...

I became good at it very quickly.
At university I received an invitation and joined the Judo Club.
I stopped getting worked up over what I couldn't read.
She fell asleep ...?
.....
.....
.....
It made my university life complete... but...
if I had been able to read books,
my path would definitely have been different.
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF WOMAN YOU'LL END UP MARRYING...
WHAT?!

I should call for a nurse if one passes by...
MAYBE IT'D BE BETTER IF YOU MARRIED A GIRL WHO LIKES BOOKS.
Kind of a strange jump in subjects.
The situation was a bit awkward.
MARRIAGE IS SOMETHING YOU NEED TO THINK ABOUT, YOU KNOW.
What's she up to?
I MEAN,
A BOOK-WORM WOULD SHARE YOUR INTERESTS,
EVEN IF THEY'RE HARD TO UNDER-STAND...
YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO READ, BUT YOU'D DEFINITELY HAVE A LOT TO TALK ABOUT.
I'M...

WHA...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ...?
IT'S TOO SOON FOR THAT KIND OF TALK...
WHEN I'M DEAD,
YOU CAN ALL DO AS YOU PLEASE WITH THOSE BOOKS.
Grand-mother had a malignant brain tumor;
her days were numbered.
but I think she figured it out from how Mom and I acted.
The discussion took place before we told her the results of the examination,


I...
I finally understood what
my grandmother was trying to say.
There's no way we could hide it from the eyes of kannon-bosatsu.
T/N: KANNONBOSATSU, A BODHISATTVA, A FEMALE ENLIGHTENED BEING, SOMETIMES WITH ALL SEEING EYES
What she wanted
to tell her grandson...
was her last request.

And now...
almost a year after her funeral, I remembered that about Grandmother.
Today of all days...
IS YOUR INABILITY TO READ BOOKS BECAUSE YOUR GRANDMOTHER GOT MAD AT YOU...?
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT...?
JUMP
!?

YOUR GRANDMOTHER SEEMS LIKE THE TYPE TO "LOSE IT" IF YOU ACCIDENTALLY TOUCHED HER BOOKSHELF,
AND THE WAY YOU SAID "NOBODY EVEN TRIED TO TOUCH IT"
IMPLIED THAT IT APPLIED TO EVERYONE BUT YOU...
IF IF WAS THAT BIG OF A DEAL,
I SUPPOSE IT ISN'T SURPRISING THAT YOU REACHED THE STAGE WHERE YOU COULDN'T READ BOOKS...
Her whole attitude is totally different...
than it was before now.
Being able to guess that so easily...
Her mind does a total 180 when it comes to books.
I...
I LOVE OLD BOOKS...

I THINK THAT THERE ARE TALES TO BE TOLD
IN BOOKS THAT TRAVEL FROM ONE PERSON'S HANDS TO ANOTHER'S...
AND I DON'T JUST MEAN THE STORIES WITHIN...

ピキッ
.....
GOURA-SAN.
Huh?
ACTUALLY, THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I'M INTERESTED IN.

IT'S DAISUKE GOURA.

MAY I ASK...
WHAT YOUR NAME IS?

すっ……
THIS IS IT.
EH?
AH... YES.
全三十四巻
初版蔵書印
三五〇〇円
THIS PRICE CARD.
IT SAYS THERE'S A "STAMP OF OWNERSHIP" RIGHT HERE, SEE?
THESE IMPRINTS WERE ONCE POPULAR IN CHINA AND JAPAN.
THE DESIGN VARIES DEPENDING ON THE OWNER'S PREFERENCES,
ぺらっ…
THIS IS THE OWNER-SHIP STAMP.
THE OWNER OF THIS BOOK WAS THE ONE WHO PRESSED THESE INTO THEIR OWN COLLECTION.
HUH...?
THE ONE WHO ASSEMBLED THIS COLLECTION
MAY HAVE BEEN FOND OF HYDRANGEAS.
BUT IT'S COMMON FOR ONLY LETTERING TO EXIST.
THERE ARE SOME EMBOSSED WITH PICTURES, JUST LIKE THESE.

T/N: "SOREKARA" IS ACTUALLY THE TITLE OF ONE OF SOUSEKI'S BOOKS – THE VERY ONE DAISUKE WAS YELLED AT FOR LOOKING AT ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

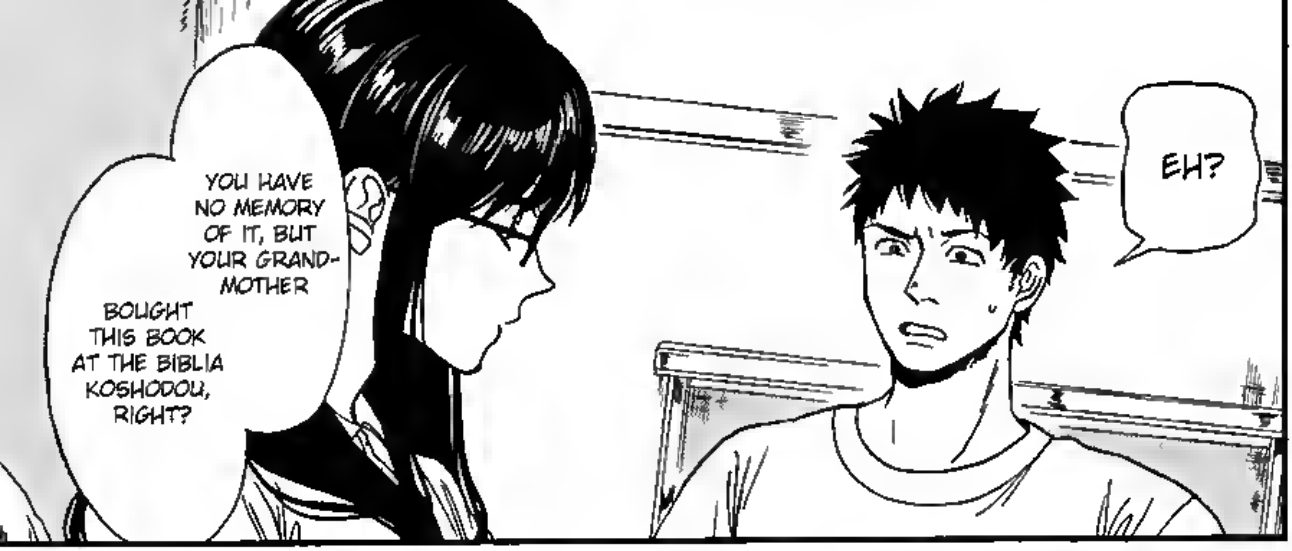
ACTUALLY, "SOREKARA" IS THE ONLY ONE WITHOUT THE OWNERSHIP STAMP.
ALL OF THE OTHERS HAVE IT PRESSED IN...
.....
ISN'T THAT STRANGE?
VERY STRANGE.

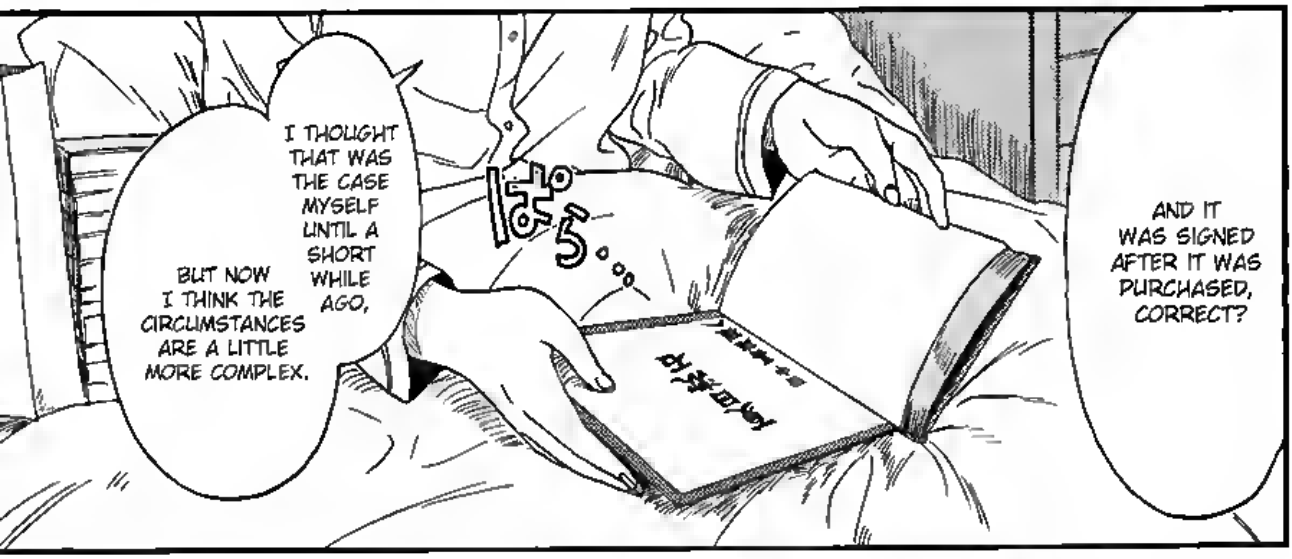
It feels like this mystery is getting deeper and deeper...
WHAT WERE THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHEREBY YOUR GRANDMOTHER PURCHASED THE COLLECTION?
DID SHE TELL YOU ABOUT IT?
NO...
THOUGH IF SHE DID READ THEM, IT WAS LONG BEFORE SHE GOT MARRIED.
IT'S PROBABLY SOMETHING THAT EVEN MY MOTHER AND AUNT DON'T KNOW ABOUT.
NOBODY ELSE HAD ANY SUCH INTEREST IN OLD BOOKS.
IS THAT SO...?
IF I THINK ABOUT IT WITH THAT IN MIND,
THEN THE 8TH VOLUME ...
.....
?
.....

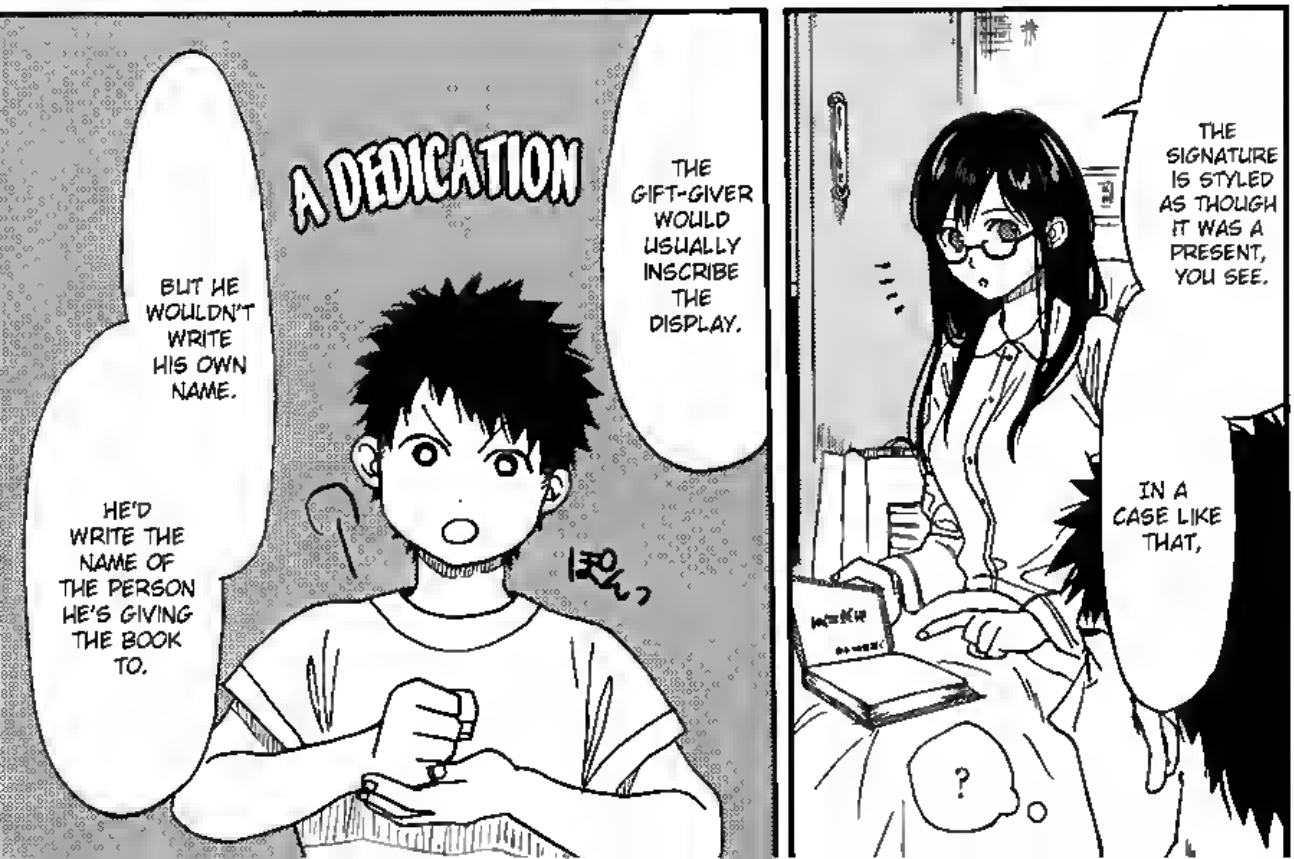
THE 8TH VOLUME...
WHAT?
?
.....
WILL YOU KEEP THIS
Sh...
BETWEEN THE TWO OF US?
EH?
ドキッ
THIS TOUCHES UPON YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S PRIVACY...

Even if it's about how Grandmother lived,
we've already reached the anniversary of her death.
As her grandchild, I should be able to hear it.
I UNDERSTAND...
Anyway, it can't be helped; I really want to continue this conversation.
THE KEY IS...
GOURA-SAN, I THINK THAT YOU BROUGHT THIS BOOK HERE
ALREADY CARRYING THE ANSWERS TO ALL OF YOUR QUESTIONS.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
IF IT DIDN'T HAVE THIS PRICE CARD AND SIGNATURE,
AND THIS BOOK WAS PURCHASED AT THE KOSHODOU,
IT'S UNLIKELY THAT ANYBODY WOULD THINK ANYTHING OF IT.
YOUR GRANDMOTHER, ON THE OTHER HAND,
WANTED YOUR FAMILY TO THINK ABOUT IT THAT WAY,
DIDN'T SHE?


EH?
YOU HAVE NO MEMORY OF IT, BUT YOUR GRAND-MOTHER BOUGHT THIS BOOK AT THE BIBLIA KOSHODOU, RIGHT?


AND IT WAS SIGNED AFTER IT WAS PURCHASED, CORRECT?
I THOUGHT THAT WAS THE CASE MYSELF UNTIL A SHORT WHILE AGO,
BUT NOW I THINK THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE A LITTLE MORE COMPLEX.


THE SIGNATURE IS STYLED AS THOUGH IT WAS A PRESENT, YOU SEE.
IN A CASE LIKE THAT,
?
THE GIFT-GIVER WOULD USUALLY INSCRIBE THE DISPLAY.
A DEDICATION
BUT HE WOULDN'T WRITE HIS OWN NAME.
HE'D WRITE THE NAME OF THE PERSON HE'S GIVING THE BOOK TO.

IT'S POSSIBLE...
IS IT SOMETHING MY GRANDMOTHER DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT?
AND TO WRITE THE NAME OF THE RECIPIENT IN THE CENTER,
IT'S NORMAL FOR AN AUTHOR TO WRITE HIS NAME IN A POSTSCRIPT ON THE LEFT SIDE
THERE'S NO WAY TO DETERMINE THE DEDICATION SIGNATURE.
田中喜雄様へ
BUT...
THIS BOOK IS JUST THE OPPOSITE.
BUT
WHY DID YOUR GRANDMOTHER HAVE IT DONE IN THE FORM OF A NORMAL DEDICATION?
THERE'S SOMETHING EVEN STRANGER.

A SECOND NAME WOULDN'T BE NECESSARY.
?
IF SHE HAD WANTED TO FAKE A SIGNATURE,
WRITING SOUSEKI'S NAME WOULD BE ENOUGH.

"Who the hell is this guy...?"
夏目漱石
田中嘉雄様へ
I thought the same thing
I wondered about this "Yoshio Tanaka"

? ? ?
THE OPPOSITE ...?

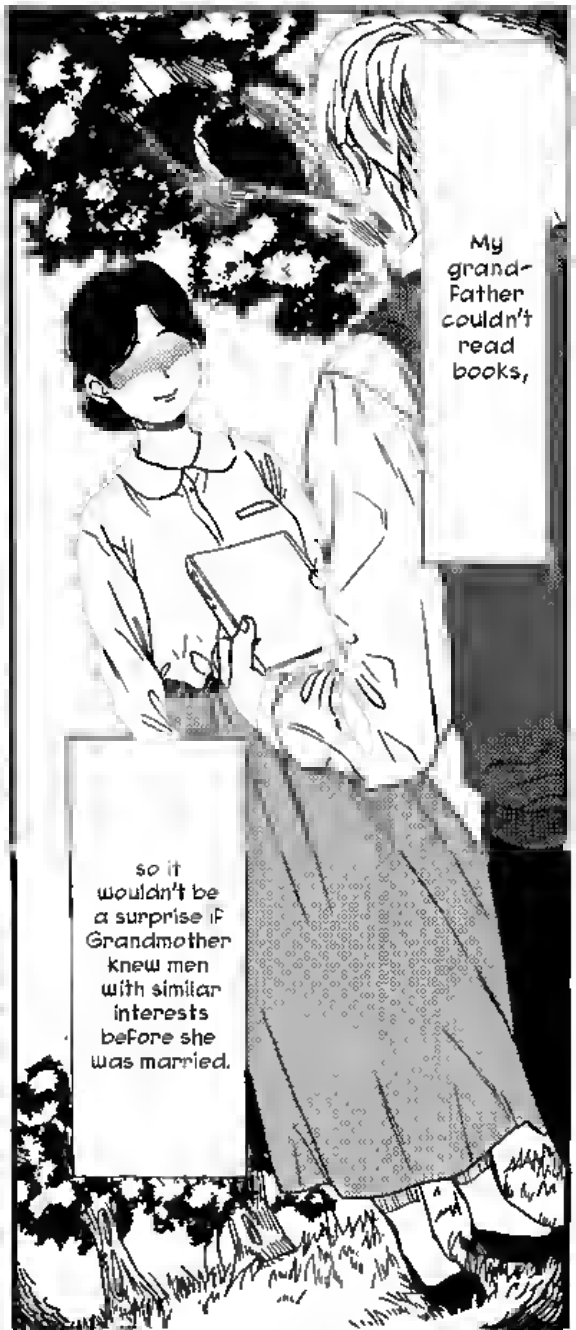
I THINK THE "BALANCE" IN THE SIGNATURE'S LETTERING IS FUNNY.
IN REGARDS TO ONE PERSON WRITING BOTH PARTS,
夏目漱石
田中嘉雄様へ

I THINK...
IT'S JUST THE OPPOSITE.

AND HERE, YOUR GRANDMOTHER ADDED ON SOUSEKI'S NAME...
夏目漱石様
IT'S ONLY NATURAL TO THINK THAT.
IT'S LOOKING MORE AND MORE LIKE THE WRITING IN THIS VOLUME ISN'T SOUSEKI NATSUME'S...
IT'S YOSHIO TANAKA-SAN'S SIGNATURE, ISN'T IT?
EH...? BUT...
WHY WOULD THIS TANAKA PERSON SIGN IT, EVEN THOUGH HE ISN'T THE AUTHOR?
I DON'T THINK HE WOULD HAVE IMPERSONATED THE AUTHOR.
ISN'T THIS A PRESENT?
THERE'S NO MYSTERY IN THE SENDER WRITING HIS OWN NAME.

I suddenly recalled what my grandmother said before she passed on...
BOOKWORMS... LIKE THE SAME THINGS...
That means this "Yoshio Tanaka" gave it to my grandmother.
OH...

But then...
the whole story just doesn't fit.
BUT GRANDMA BOUGHT THE COLLECTION FROM BIBLIA KOSHODOU, RIGHT?
I DON'T THINK A PERSON CALLED TANAKA GAVE IT TO HER...


My grandfather couldn't read books,
so it wouldn't be a surprise if Grandmother knew men with similar interests before she was married.

IT'S AS YOU SAY.
THIS "TANAKA-SAN" PROBABLY GAVE HER THE LONE VOLUME.
YOUR GRANDMOTHER WAS GIVEN A PERSONALIZED "VOLUME 8".
YOU CAN BUY A SET OF 34 VOLUMES AT OUR STORE.
IT'S PROBABLY A DUPLI-CATE 8TH VOLUME
ONE WE DISPOSED OF.

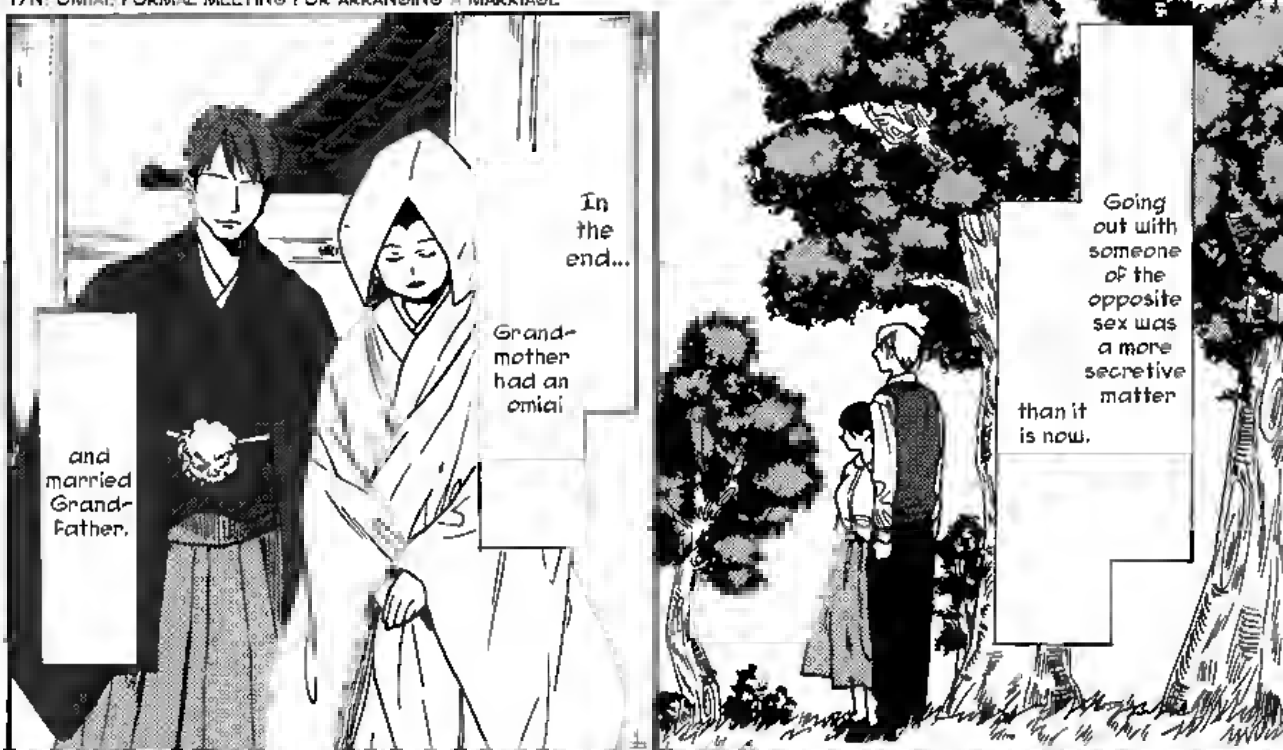
THIS VOLUME WAS THE ONLY ONE WITHOUT A STAMP OF OWNERSHIP, AND THE PRICE CARD DIDN'T MENTION A SIGNATURE.
THAT'S THE REASON WHY.
BUT...
WHY WOULD SHE DO SOMETHING SO COMPLICATED?
SO THIS VOLUME WOULDN'T BE SEEN BY OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS.

I BELIEVE IT WAS TO ENSURE THAT NOBODY WOULD NOTICE THE PRESENT.
IF SHE STUCK THE 8TH VOLUME OF THE "COLLECTIVE WORKS OF SOUSEKI" ON A BOOKSHELF BY ITSELF,
IT MIGHT'VE CAUGHT SOMEONE'S EYE...
SO SHE BOUGHT A FULL 34 VOLUME SET FROM US,
MAKING SURE TO PUT THE PRICE CARD IN THE 8TH VOLUME
AS "PROOF" THAT SHE BOUGHT IT AT THE KOSHODOU.
OKAY THEN.
AND THE SIGNATURE ...?
I THINK SOUSEKI'S SIGNATURE WAS ADDED JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE.
OR RATHER...
THEY'RE "TRIVIAL SCRIBBLES FROM THE PREVIOUS OWNER".
I MEAN, SHE WOULDN'T WANT TO MISLEAD ANYONE, RIGHT?
I've seen that signature...
I remember it...

DID SHE REALLY HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL OF THAT?
Grandma really pulled one over on us...
I suspected that it might be fake from the beginning,
but I never considered that it might have been intentional.

My great grandparents were in good health before my grandmother got married,
but it was a different era back then.
I considered the "situation" myself.
IT ALL HAPPENED A LONG TIME AGO...
I BELIEVE SHE HAD TO BE MINDFUL OF THE "SITUATION" BACK THEN.

T/N: OMIAI: FORMAL MEETING FOR ARRANGING A MARRIAGE


and married Grandfather.
In the end...
Grandmother had an omiai
Going out with someone of the opposite sex was a more secretive matter
than it is now.

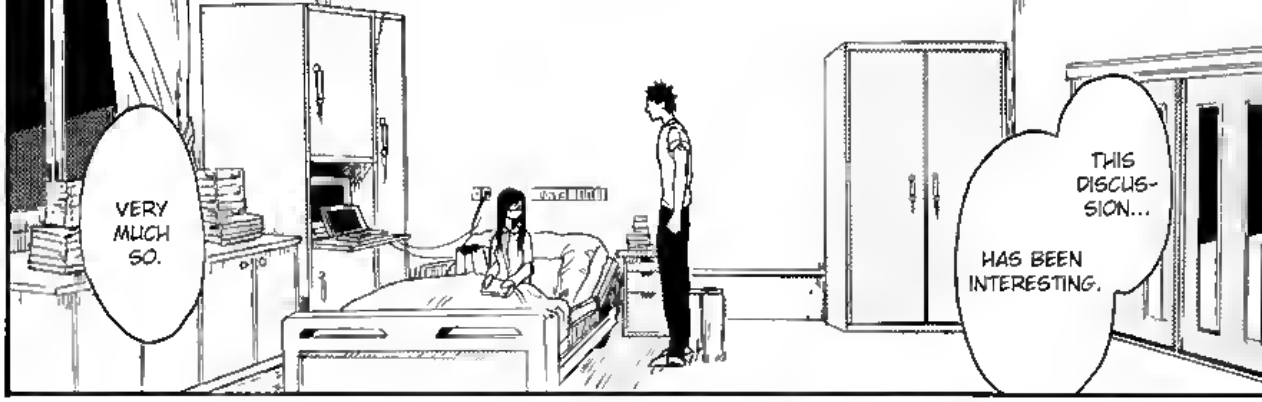
Back then,
after apologizing for hitting me...
...WHAT KIND OF WOMAN
WILL YOU END UP MARRYING...?
I'm sure she had to separate from this "Yoshio Tanaka".
Something about our talk from "back then"
brought to her mind the subject of marriage.
the topic suddenly changed to marriage.
I'm sure that
to Grandma, all of this is somehow connected...
Even though she said "When I'm dead, do as you please with the books",
there may have been some meaning in having us see the autograph.

SHE COULD HAVE HIDDEN IT AWAY SOMEWHERE...
BUT WHY DID SHE HAVE THE BOOKSHELF SORTED?
INSTEAD OF HAVING IT TUCKED AWAY SOMEWHERE, SHE PLACED IT WITH OTHER BOOKS.
SHE MAY HAVE THOUGHT IT SAFER THAT WAY.
Her hands ...
she's stroking the cover as though she really loves it.
For some reason
make me think of the hands Grand-mother hit me with.
BUT STILL...

DOESN'T IT FEEL AS THOUGH
SHE KEPT SUCH AN IMPORTANT BOOK CLOSE AT HAND?
ドクン...

I REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH OF THIS DISCUSSION IS REALLY TRUE.
Come to think of it... this girl is a "bookworm" herself.
IT'S A STORY OF RELICS FROM BEFORE WE WERE BORN.
WE CAN'T VERIFY IT WITH YOUR GRAND-MOTHER...
If she had a lover, they'd surely share the same interests, right...?
ALL THAT WE HAVE IS WHAT WE CAN TIE TOGETHER FROM THIS BOOK.
I felt like...

I had woken up from a dream.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO WITH THE COLLECTION?
WE CAN BUY IT FROM YOU IF YOU WANT, BUT...
HAW...
NO, I'LL TAKE IT BACK WITH ME. REALLY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
Even if it isn't worth anything,
the collection is packed with Grandmother's history.
I don't have it in me to just hand it over like that


VERY MUCH SO.
THIS DISCUS-SION...
HAS BEEN INTERESTING.

To just leave things like this and go home would... somehow feel stupid...
Something... say some-thing that will lead to a next time...

Erm
"Will you please talk to me again next time...?"

!?
Y-
YES?
ドクン
DAISUKE GOURA-SAN.
.....

THANK YOU...

WERE YOU NAMED BY YOUR GRANDMOTHER, BY ANY CHANCE?
EH?
I WAS, BUT... HOW DID YOU KNOW?

RIGHT.
I HEARD THAT THIS BOOK CAME OUT THE YEAR AFTER HER MARRIAGE.

WHEN DID YOUR GRANDMOTHER GET MARRIED?
What in the world is it this time...?
AH—
Is there still more to talk about?

I went home

and reported the results.

It goes without saying that I didn't mention anything about Grandmother's history.
Grandchild of the restaurant
IT'S WORSE THAN WHEN SOMEONE DOES A DINE-AND-DASH!
Yeah, Mom was pissed.

Ah, sure...

grrr
grrr
Apparently Mom's anger stemmed from something completely different.
SO YOU CAN APOLOGIZE PROPERLY!
TOMORROW YOU'LL TAKE A THANK YOU GIFT
All I told her was that the signature wasn't authentic ...

PUUSUKE...
But still...
ぽぉん
I was definitely causing problems for her, given how that played out...

JUST WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?
YOU WILL SIT THERE AND TAKE IN EVERY WORD I SAY.
Still...

YES MA'AM...
Thanks to that, I had an excuse to see the girl again.
Thus continues the Fated encounter of two people.
玉洞食堂
Biblia Koshodou no Jiken Techou - To Be Continued